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# U.S. TO GRILL TURNCOAT SPY

## Call kidnaping tale baloney Red spy to talk to U.S.

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WASHINGTON—The Soviet Union agreed yesterday to allow U.S. officials to interview Vitaly Yurchenko, the spymaster who changed his mind and decided he wanted to go back to the Soviet Union after three months of telling all to the CIA in a Virginia safe house.

The interview was set to take place at the State Department barely 24 hours after Yurchenko's dramatic news conference at which he accused the CIA of kidnaping and drugging him.

Charles Redman, a State Department spokesman, said the U.S. wanted assurances from Yurchenko, former No. 5 man in the Soviet intelligence service that the Soviets had not coerced him to return home.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials insisted that Yurchenko willingly defected last August and that his charges against the CIA were groundless and an attempt to curry favor with his Soviet bosses. Most U.S. sources discounted the notion that the whole Yurchenko episode had been orchestrated by the Russians to embarrass the United States.

### U.S. stands firm

Soviet officials at first contended that because Yurchenko had a diplomatic passport he did not have to report to American authorities. But U.S. officials said yesterday that Yurchenko's diplomatic passport is no good here because he came into the country as a defector under the parole authority of the Justice Department.

In Moscow, Secretary of State Shultz told reporters that he had discussed the case with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Shultz, in Moscow to make final arrangements for the upcoming summit meeting between Gorbachev and President Reagan, called Yurchenko's charges "totally false."

In the meantime, Yurchenko, 50, was said to remain at the Soviet compound in northwest Washington, site of his Monday news conference.

Yurchenko on Monday insisted that he had been kidnaped last August in Rome and kept in a semi-drugged state at a CIA safe house near Fredericksburg, Va. He contended that he did not knowingly give any information to the CIA, even though he said he was offered a \$1 million contract and the prospect of a life of luxury in the U.S.

### 'Don't know I said'

At the same time, Yurchenko said he was not sure what he said under the influence of drugs.

U.S. officials credit Yurchenko with pointing the finger at Edward Lee Howard, a former CIA employee who had worked for the KGB. Howard fled to Europe last month—almost out from under the nose of FBI agents who had been watching him.